



# Air Resources Board



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman  
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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

October 14, 2009

Ms. Laura Yoshii  
Acting Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Ms. Yoshii:

We are transmitting our recommendations for area designations and boundaries for the 2008 federal lead standard of  $0.15 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , as required under the Federal Clean Air Act.

Ambient lead concentrations have dropped dramatically in California since the mid-1970s, primarily as a result of removing lead from gasoline. Given the low concentrations generally measured, the statewide network of lead monitors has been reduced over time. Only a few monitors are still operating, and all are located in the southern portion of the State. We base our area designation recommendations on ambient lead concentrations measured during 2006 through 2008 by these limited number of Federal Reference Method monitors.

As shown in Enclosure 1, the Air Resources Board (ARB) recommends that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) designate the South Coast Air Basin portion of Los Angeles County as nonattainment. The design value for this area is 2.49 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). In contrast, ARB recommends that U.S. EPA designate Imperial County as attainment. Air quality data collected in the County are complete, and the design value of  $0.03 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  is well below the standard level. Finally, ARB recommends the remaining areas of the State be deemed unclassifiable, because air quality data are either not available or are not sufficient for making a determination.

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency


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We include the following materials in this package:

- Recommended nonattainment/attainment/unclassifiable areas (Enclosure 1).
- Public Meeting Notice for recommended designations (Enclosure 2).
- Staff Report (Enclosure 3).
- Information supporting recommended nonattainment area (Enclosure 4).
- Nonattainment area boundary description (Enclosure 5).

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 445-4383 if you have any questions regarding these recommendations, or have your staff contact Ms. Karen Magliano, Chief, Air Quality Data Branch, at (916) 322-7137.

Sincerely,



James N. Goldstene  
Executive officer

cc: See next page.

Enclosures (5)

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cc: (with enclosures)

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